

Jacksonville Friends Meeting
Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business - Minutes
Elaine Martin, clerk
May 15, 2011

Meeting for worship with attention to business opened with worship and with worship sharing on the following query:

Do I accept the meeting for business in the spirit of relinquishing control, recognizing the meeting's corporate spiritual discernment of God's will may lead in a quite different direction from my own perception of God's will, no matter how sincere?

1. The Minutes for February 13, 2011, Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were amended and approved.
2. Stuart Smith gave the Treasurer's Report. The Meeting has about \$900 in the Treasury. K.C. Smith is cosigner on the Meeting's bank account, in place of Chet Montgomery.
3. Meeting approved the following Minute of Appreciation for Sue Williams:

Jacksonville Friends Meeting acknowledges with thanksgiving Sue Williams for her many, many years of service to the Meeting as clerk. Sue offered to be clerk, then continued as clerk year after year when no other Friend felt led to do so. When other Friends turned away from taking up such a responsibility as clerk of the Meeting, Sue obliged without complaint, year after year.

Sue sustained an organized Quaker presence in Jacksonville for many years. For this, the Meeting is most grateful. As clerk, Sue welcomed, cajoled, encouraged, reminded, and informed Friends week after week in her dedication to holding the Meeting together in years when few Friends attended meeting regularly and when meeting tended to be spiritually dry. Sue represented the Meeting at religious functions through the years and acted as corresponding clerk when necessary.

For all of Sue's inherent gifts of clerking the Meeting, Jacksonville Friends Meeting is most grateful to Sue Williams.

4. The topic of the Meeting website was tabled, because the two Friends who had expressed an interest in maintaining it were absent.

5. Meeting discussed an invitation, forwarded by the co-clerks of SEYM Worship and Ministry Committee, to consider hosting one or more workshops presented by Jerry Knutson, a Released Friend from Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting. Possible dates would be in November of this year or in February or March of 2012.

A Friend expressed interest in hosting one event, to which Meeting might invite other Jacksonville residents. Another Friend has read Rex Ambler's *Light to Live By: An Exploration in Quaker Spirituality* and noted that one of the offered workshops uses this book.

Several Friends expressed concern about the logistics of hosting a workshop, especially if others from the community are invited. A Friend asked, "To what end would we host a workshop, in what direction?" Other suggestions included that Meeting ask SEYM to host workshops, or that Meeting do its own workshop. Several Friends suggested deferring a decision, since the target dates are "a year off."

It was suggested that Meeting could use input from Wendy Geiger, one of the yearly meeting W&M co-clerks.

The clerk suggested that the sense of the Meeting was to take time to consider this proposal, and to revisit it at the next meeting for business. Friends agreed.

6. The clerk reported that Meeting is not in unity about the on-going location for Meeting for Worship. In particular, two Friends have told her that for private reasons they can no longer attend Meeting at the Bartram Bolles School location.

Several Friends expressed financial and logistical reasons why the present location is very adequate, and why moving elsewhere would be a challenge.

One Friend expressed concern about those who cannot attend, saying that ministering to these two takes priority over financial and logistical concerns.

After more discussion, the sense of the Meeting, as expressed by the clerk, was that a new location would not be considered at present. Friends who wish to find another location are invited to do some searching and to make a proposal at a future meeting for business.

7. Announcements:

American Friends Service Committee is seeking self-nominations by Friends for positions on the Board of Directors, the Corporation, and various standing committees. Applications are due by May 20, 2011.

The clerk will host a worship sharing at her home on Friday, May 20th, beginning at 7:30 pm.

Meeting closed with silence.

Michael Austin Shell
Substitute recording clerk